

CECILIA LOFTUS AS A STAR.

"THE SERIO-COMIC GOVERNESS"
PRODUCED AT THE LYCEUM.A New Play Written Around Miss Loftus
and Introducing Her Vaudeville Imi-
tations—A Curious Story That Was
Well Conceived by Israel Zangwill.Cecilia Loftus disclosed herself last
night at the Lyceum Theatre as a hub.
She is the hub of a play, which revolves
around her with the grace and celerity
of a skidding automobile wheel on a wet
road. The play is called "The Serio-Comic
Governess" and it was written by Israel
Zangwill.Some day Mr. Zangwill, no doubt, will
explain his play. It needs it. Just now
there is ample room for doubt as to whether
the production is explicable on any other
grounds than those of emotional theatrical-
ism.It is a sort of comic opera play with
vaudeville specialties thrown in. Every-
one knows that Cecilia Loftus was once
the star of a play, which revolves
around her with the grace and celerity
of a skidding automobile wheel on a wet
road. The play is called "The Serio-Comic
Governess" and it was written by Israel
Zangwill.The imitations were so good that Miss
Loftus tried to be an actress whom other
musical goddesses might imitate. She
finally reached the goal of all ambition,
the legitimate. She acted *Ophelia*. Now
she has her next music hall stunts again,
but this time in the second act of a play
written for the purpose of introducing them.She is also the heroine of a most remark-
able story. She is a governess in a rich
London family in the day time. In the
night she appears at the Frolville Theatre
as *Nellie O'Neill*, queen of serio-comic
singers. Certainly Mr. Zangwill never be-
lieved that any one else would believe
in that for a single moment. Could he ever
have believed in it himself? It is comic
opera parading in respectable garments
and trying to be decent by keeping out of
the society of ribald music.This heroine has two lovers. One she
meets while a school girl and idealizes in
school girl fashion. The other she meets
while a governess and does not love. The
latter proves to be the real article. The
first one, a soldier, goes to war and she
waits for him. When he comes back he
goes to see *Nellie O'Neill*, and leaves and
goes to her from a box.This disgusts the governess. The other
lover also goes to see *Nellie* and the next
day calls and proposes. This does not dis-
turb the governess. Here we enter boldly
the happy domain of the comedy drama,
and virtue strikes the rafters with the glory
of its ascension, while the walls quiver with
the applause of the godly who sit in the
top seats.Mr. Zangwill's sentiment in this play is
of the dime novel order, but it is of the sort
that is understood by the people. His
wit is of the style familiar to British bur-
lesque. Yet he has done some clever
character drawing.The little comical girl who becomes a
governess is lovable. The music hall singer
is preposterous. The other music hall folk
are all caricatures and consequently are
funny. The comedy of the play is in the
weight in gold. He is a real comedian.Again the people in the home of the good
heroine, wherein the governess first governs,
are excellent. The company was ac-
ceptable. The play was neatly and taste-
fully staged and it had evidently been
carefully rehearsed.

GOT STRAVALLI, POLICE SAY.

There's Quite Enough Evidence to Convict
Him of Having Up His Shop.Police Captain Shire of the East Thirtieth
street station declared yesterday that
Detective Sergeant Petrosino, Bonnelly, Far-
ley and Brady had secured so much evi-
dence against Joseph Stravalli, the barber
accused of blowing up his own shop in Third
avenue early on Monday morning, that
Stravalli was almost certain of conviction.
The detective who was yesterday, they
said, that while Stravalli did a fairly pro-
perous business he spent much of his time
in card games and was unable to meet a
number of financial obligations for that
reason.Detective Sergeant Farley met Mrs. Stravalli
and her two children at Thirty-eighth
street and Second avenue yesterday. She
told him that they had had scarcely any
thing to eat for several days, so he pro-
vided the family with food.The Stravallis made a fine figure of
Joseph, the manager, and Julia Dean was
comely as his wife, Marcelle. The
other members of the company were ac-
ceptable. The play was neatly and taste-
fully staged and it had evidently been
carefully rehearsed.

COLD-TAX BOX FRENCH STYLE.

French Professors Did Up Cop Who Didn't
Know the Savate.Henri Andre, professor of the savate,
and Henri Jeanner, who can kick a bit
himself, were trying to punch each other
with their toes at Broadway and Thirty-
first street, last night, when Policeman
Fred took a hand. Reid does not know the
savate.The Frenchmen began kicking at each
other's faces and began to dance around
the cop, whose weight is 240 pounds and
whose motions are scarcely gase-like.
Henri Andre kicked the cop's eye and
Henri Jeanner jabbed his toe neatly in
the cop's nose. Reid struck out manfully,
but he couldn't handle the elusive French-
men.Callahan, from the Tenderloin station,
got there in time to save Reid from being
seriously hurt. He saw uniform was
sight and his face had suffered.The savate experts were locked up in the
Tenderloin station. They live at 462 Sixth
avenue.

GOLD MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVER.

Quinn, Who Has Saved Hundreds of Lives,
Now in Hospital.A gold medal was presented yesterday to
Cornelius F. Quinn, the swimming in-
structor and life saver, who is in the Leba-
non Hospital undergoing treatment for a
poisoned foot. Quinn has been to have
several hundred lives at Palm Beach, Fla.,
Manhattan Beach and other places.About a week ago he saved an eleven-
year-old boy, Charles Wesel of 921 Tinton
avenue. The Bronx, of Clinton's Point.
While he was carrying the middle-aged Wil-
liam II. on a rusty raft, inflammation fol-
lowed, and Quinn was taken to the Leba-
non Hospital, where his foot will probably
be amputated to-day.When young Wesel's father heard of the
rescue of his son and the accident to Quinn
he decided to present the life saver with a
medal.

NEW BOOKS.

Some September Stories.

There used to be a society game, which
may, for aught we know, be still played
sometimes in remote parts, where an out-
line of a plot was agreed upon and the par-
ticipants improvised their parts in a little
comedy. It was a faraway survival of the
early days of the drama and the Italian
comedy with Scaramouch and Pantaloon
and Columbine and the rest. It is on that
plan that a slight, amusing story with a
thoroughly conventional plot is developed
in "The Affair at the East" (Grafton,
Milfin & Co.). The four characters who
appear are assigned to four different roles,
each of whom tells his or her part of
the story. The lively American young
person falls to the share of Mrs. Kate
Douglas Wiggin, the British Baroness to
Mrs. Anne Manning, the comic old woman
and the sentimental elderly spinster to
Mary and Jane Helen Plaster. An auto-
mobile brings the piece up to date. The
love business that makes up the story is
pleasant, the actors are clever and enter-
taining, so that the lengthening out of a
short story to a volume is excusable. It is
evidently a book for summer reading, so
that its publication now seems a little be-
lated.For a dialect story Mr. Will N. Harben's
"The Georgians" (Harpers) has some merit.
There are scenes and incidents that are well
described and bits of psychology of the poor
whites of the South, here and there, that
are taken from life. The hero and chief
actor is Abner Daniel, whom the author
has depicted in former books, a sort of
muscle-bound, but not without a good deal
of brains, a sort of a "fairy godmother."
The story, however, is not well constructed,
and not particularly interesting. The lack
of probability in the main incidents is not
entirely due to the author's evident desire
to drag in Abner Daniel, right or wrong.
The rascally friend of the negro we have
met before, and if we are not mistaken,
in Mr. Harben's own books; the ease with
which he is depicted in this part, we sus-
pect, to a desire to get away from A.
Daniel's eloquence at any cost. The book
is "a great advantage of not being illu-
strated."A mysterious murder in "The Red Win-
dow," by Fergus M. G. W. Dillingham
(Co.), starts a sort of "hunt the slipper"
game for the murderer. The reader is led
on half a dozen plausible false scents be-
fore the true culprit is revealed, and is
tangled up with other intrigues. It is a
machine made story, no worse than many
others of the sort, but a long way behind
the "Hansom Cab."Two little books that were much read
half a century ago, Mrs. Anne Manning
Bathurst's "The Maiden and the Married Life
of Mary Powell" and "Deborah's Diary" are
published in a single volume with illu-
strations by John Nimmo and Charles
Scribner's Sons. In an introduction the
Rev. W. H. Hutton contrives to give singu-
larly little information about the author,
whose list of stories is very long. The
stories present the life of John Milton, as
seen by his female relatives. In the first
of diaries, put in the conventional old-
fashioned English, which is made up chiefly
of misspelled common words. The book
is as entertaining as most historical novels
of the day, nevertheless.Another reprint in gorgeous form is Mr.
Thompson Buchanan's "The Castle Comedy"
(Harpers) with illustrations and decorations
by Elizabeth Shippen Green. The book
is brown and the decorations green; the
pictures in color are not bad, but neither
are they particularly attractive nor have
they much significance. The story is a
bit of sentimental foolery of the romantic
historical sort that is amusing in the way.
The behavior of most of the persons is
unconventional and their motives and
actions unusual outside of lunatic asylums.
That, however, seems to be a requisite for
later-day tales of adventure. There is
love, and fighting, and various escapes.A British Humorist in Rhyme.
If they will pay no attention to military
science and can let the lessons of the South
African War pass unheeded, it is a comfort
to find that the officers of King Edward can
at least turn out comic opera librettos and
write funny verse. Mr. Harry Graham,
whose pen-name is Col. D. Streamer, in-
cludes his "The Maiden and the Married Life
of Mary Powell" (Fox, Duffield & Co.) of do-
zen or so of short skits, all modelled on one
pattern that are improvements in taste and
in execution on his "Ruthless Rhymes,"
which, perhaps, is not saying much. There
are reminiscences of Mr. Gilbert and Lewis
Carroll, and there is a strong touch of the
infantile in some of the "Rhymes" and his
in the verse, but some of them are
clever and occasionally have a very funny
turn, while some lines are very good.The author is remarkably successful in
avoiding mistakes in his American allusions,
though his view of President Roosevelt is
a wholly British one. The book is dedicated,
by picture, to a charming and popular young
actress.

A View of Narragansett Bay.

An attractive description of the pic-
turesque part of Rhode Island has been
drawn with pen and pencil by Mr. Edgar
Mayhew Bacon in "Narragansett Bay"
(P. P. Putnam Booksellers). The book
is the right idea of a book of the kind, and
dwells on the natural beauties, the legend-
ary and historical associations, rather than
on the present appearance of the
shores. The Newport he describes, for
instance, is devoid of the summer dwellers
and the palaces they have erected. He
gives us an interesting voyage around the
waters of the bay, with plenty to say of
Providence and of Bristol, and has put
together much that has been sung about
the region in verse of all sorts. The pictures
are attractive, if not particularly strong;
some seem to be taken from photographs,
but most have the indefiniteness of water
colors.

A Puff of the Kaiser.

Personal memoirs made up from news-
paper clippings and like authoritative
sources are one of the annoyances of modern
life. The imposture of "The Englishman
in Paris" started a lot of far less competent
and well-intentioned imitations. From the
hand which furnished a deplorable book on
the court life of Austria we now have a
personal work on that of Prussia, "Imperial
Rex. William I. of Germany," (Harpers).
Fortunately the author approves of the
Kaiser, so that instead of detraction and what
little-tattle has appeared in the press, we
have here fulsome praise. From the cradle
to his present sad middle age William II.
has done nothing but what was noble and
great.Such a view necessarily involves de-
struction of his father and mother, together
with the people who surrounded them.
Some benighted persons looked on these
as the most enlightened group in Germany,
those who, if Frederick II. had been spared,
might have introduced liberal ideas into
the government and saved it from utilitar-
ian and social democracy. We doubt
whether, even in Germany, the events of
Wilhelm II.'s life have been related in such
laudatory and grandiloquent phrases. The
many fanciful pictures of that worthy
are ludicrous enough to temper the eulogy
of the text.The Manhattan Theatre will open this
evening with Mrs. Fiske and the Manhattan
company in "Becky Sharp." This will
be the first appearance of the new perma-
nent company that Harrison Grey Fiske
has organized, with Mrs. Fiske at its head.
It is to make the Manhattan Theatre its
home, and during its season will appear
in a number of productions and revivals.
The main reason and George Arliss have prom-
ised roles in "Becky Sharp."The Manhattan Theatre to Open To-night.
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